Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system, comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source to a user over a communication network, said partial data comprising attribute data and only a part of distribution data, together with said attribute data including the a price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided at said user said distribution data having been separated into said part and a remaining part;

partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or a the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the indication at the earliest; and

remaining distribution data distribution means for, upon receipt by the source of a request from the user for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data corresponding to the partial data, distributing from the source the remaining part of the distribution data to the user over the communication network who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

2. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system, comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source to a user over a communication network, said partial data comprising attribute data and only a part of distribution data, together with said attribute data including the a price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided at said user said distribution data having been separated into said part and a remaining part;

partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or a the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the indication at the earliest;

payment ability judgment means for said source, upon the receipt of a request from the user for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data corresponding to the partial data, judging whether or not the user, ~~who has requested the distribution of the part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data,~~ can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means for, when the judgment by the result of the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributing the requested data from the source to the ~~corresponding~~ user over the communication network;

accounting means for the source, when the distribution of the requested data by the requested data distribution means from the source to the user has been confirmed, performing accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means for rending the ~~remaining part of the~~ requested data, which has been distributed from the source to the user by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

3. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system, comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source to a storage region provided at a user over a communication network, said partial data including attribute data and only a part of distribution data for which a time of ~~the~~ start of use has been fixed, ~~together with~~ said attribute data, ~~which can~~ able to be disclosed before ~~the~~ an arrival of the time of start of use, and including at least one of the time of start of use and ~~the~~ a price of the distribution data, said distribution data having been separated into said part and a remaining part, said partial data preliminary distribution means configured to distribute said partial data from said source to said storage region provided at said user before the arrival of the time of start of use;

partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a decision to purchase the partial data distributed from said source by the partial data preliminary distribution means or ~~a~~ the remaining ~~undistributed~~ part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the partial data, except for the attribute data, from the fixed time of ~~the~~ start of use at the earliest; and

remaining distribution data distribution means for, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data corresponding to the partial data, distributing the remaining part of the distribution data from said source to the user over the communication network who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

4. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system, comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source to a user over a communication network, said partial data comprising attribute data and only a part of distribution data for which the a time of the start of use has been fixed, together with said attribute data, which can able to be disclosed before the an arrival of the time of start of use, and including at least one of the time of start of use and the a price of the distribution data, said distribution data having been separated into said part and a remaining part, said partial data preliminary distribution means configured to distribute said partial data from said source to said user before the arrival of the time of the start of use, to a storage region provided at said user;

partial data reproduction release means which, when the user indicates to said source a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data except for the attribute data reproducible from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon the receipt of a request by the source from the user for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data corresponding to the partial data, judges whether or not the user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means which, when the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data from said source to the corresponding user over the communication network;

accounting means which, when the distribution of the requested data from the source to the user by the requested data distribution means has been confirmed, performs accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means which renders the ~~remaining part of the~~ <u>requested</u> data, which has been distributed from said source to said user by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

5. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the remaining<u> part of the</u> distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates ~~the~~ <u>an</u> interval of ~~the~~ distribution <u>of each part of the plurality of parts</u> of the remaining<u> part of the</u> distribution data ~~for each divided unit~~ from the source to the user according to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

6. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio network.

7. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2, which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and subtracts an amount of money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a new balance value.

8. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 7, which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at the time of completion of accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the sales code to establish the balance.

9. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 7, wherein a period of validity is provided in the sales code and which further comprises means, for

establishing the balance at a time of no charging, that, when the period of validity has expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by subtracting an equivalent value from the balance, to the original value based on recognition that the payment corresponding to an issued sales code has not been made.

10. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2, wherein the remaining part of the distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the a interval of the distribution of each part of the plurality of parts of the remaining part of the distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3, wherein the remaining part of the distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the an interval of the distribution of each part of the plurality of parts of the remaining part of the distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4, wherein the remaining part of the distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the an interval of the distribution of each part of the plurality of parts of the remaining part of the distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2, wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio network.

14. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 3, wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio network.

15. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 4, wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio network.

16. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 4, which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance value.

17. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 16, which further comprises means, for establishing a balance at the time of the completion of accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the sales code to establish the balance.

18. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance value.

19. (New) A method in a system, said system comprising a distribution server and a user terminal, said distribution server in communication with the user terminal through a communication network, said method comprising:

      storing, by said distribution server, a plurality of data blocks of distribution data;

      receiving, by said user terminal from said distribution server through said communication network, a first data block of said plurality of data blocks;

      reproducing, by said user terminal, said distribution data specified by said first data block;

      determining, by said user terminal, a status of progress of reproduction of said distribution data by said user terminal;

receiving, by said distribution server from said user terminal through said communication network, said status of progress;

determining, by said distribution server based on said status of progress, a rate of progress of reproduction of said distribution data by said user terminal;

determining, by said distribution server based on said rate of progress, a time at which a remaining data block of said plurality of data blocks is to be transmitted to said user terminal so as to maintain continuous reproduction of said distribution data at said user terminal; and

distributing, from said distribution server to said user terminal through said communication network, the remaining data block at said time.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the distribution data consists of a single game program.

21. (New) A system, comprising:

a distribution server; and

a user terminal in communication with the distribution server through a communication network;

wherein said distribution server is configured to store a plurality of data blocks of distribution data;

wherein said user terminal is configured to receive, from said distribution server through said communication network, a first data block of said plurality of data blocks;

wherein said user terminal is configured to reproduce said distribution data specified by said first data block;

wherein said user terminal is configured to determine a status of progress of reproduction of said distribution data by said user terminal;

wherein said distribution server is configured to receive, from said user terminal through said communication network, said status of progress;

wherein said distribution server is configured to determine, based on said status of progress, a rate of progress of reproduction of said distribution data by said user terminal;

wherein said distribution server is configured to determine, based on said rate of progress, a time at which a remaining data block of said plurality of data blocks is to be transmitted to said user terminal so as to allow for maintaining continuous reproduction of said distribution data at said user terminal; and

wherein said distribution server is configured to distribute, to said user terminal through said communication network, the remaining data block at said time.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the distribution data consists of a single game program.